

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, June 07, 2022**

Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Jacob L. Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Workshop Session Agenda

10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Engineer Seth Scarola, Finance Deputy Director Pam Beierle, Emergency Management Director Jeff King, various county employees, and members of the public listening via Zoom.

Director Kelsey reviewed the equipment and rental rates on this afternoon's consent agenda for approval, followed by a discussion of the costs of the facilities' trucks. Finance Deputy Director Beierle provided clarification on the amount appropriated for each truck in the Public Works fleet.

Director Kelsey reported on the pay estimate on this afternoon's agenda, which was followed by a report on the Courtney Road Safety Project.

Engineer Scarola reported on the Klickitat Path; advertising for County parking lot improvements; guardrail project, then stated the grant application was submitted for the 100% grant-funded bridge repairs.

Director Kelsey updated the Board on facilities work, which included the County Services Building, soundproofing installation in the E911 dispatch building and the Satus Pass radio tower site.

10:30 AM – Sheriff's Office Elected Official Report/Update:

Attendance: Sheriff Bob Songer, Under-Sheriff Tim Neher, Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings, Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes, Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Sheriff Bob Songer reported on the calls for service from January 1, 2022, to June 6, 2022, as well as the civil papers served.

Sheriff Songer reported on the events that took place for National Police Week, followed by reading into the record the names of fallen officers from Klickitat County.

Sheriff Songer reported on the cougar attack that took place in Stevens County, followed by thanking all of the Sheriff's Office employees, volunteer members of the Sheriff's Reserve Program, and Posse Members.

Under-Sheriff Tim Neher read into the record a recent press release from the Sheriff's Office regarding a report of the discovered skeletal remains in remote rangeland about two miles east of the John Day Dam and Klickitat County Sheriff's Office Detective Robert Bianchi's response to a report of a sexual assault of a 12-year-old female victim, north of Goldendale, Washington.

Under-Sheriff Neher reported on staff training and staff levels, noting there are lateral transfers as well as new hires.

Chief Jail Deputy Knopes reported on jail staffing, noting there is currently a shortage, followed by a report on staff training. Chief Knopes explained corrections officers duties and risks involved when transporting inmates.

Chief Jail Deputy Knopes commented on the challenges inmates face in reinstating State health insurances when they are released. Chief Knopes shared a success story through the True Blood Program, that helped an inmate who is no longer homeless on the streets of Goldendale. Chief Knopes provided updates on mental health services and substance abuse programs offered to inmates.

Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings reported on the Sheriff's Office budget and deputy and correction officer training costs that are being covered by grants.

A discussion was held regarding Officer staffing for the upcoming local rodeos lessening the number of incidents requiring officers to respond at these events, followed by volunteer programs in the Sheriff's Office.

A discussion was held regarding Posse Member training and what events the Posse members attend and assist with.

A discussion was held regarding the crisis services in Klickitat County; Chairman Anderson stated he and Public Health Director Erinn Quinn attended a meeting with Beacon Health Options.

Commissioner Christopher reported on correspondence received regarding the mental health crisis services.

Public Health Director Quinn reported on the mental health efforts going forward for short- and long-term mental services.

Chief Knopes reported on a meeting she had with Judge Jeff Baker to discuss mental health challenges. Chief Knopes stated there needs to be a stakeholders meeting to discuss mental health services and issues in our County. Discussion followed regarding both Klickitat County Hospital Districts developing their own mental health programs. It was noted that the hospitals aren't able to provide crisis responders.

Director Quinn reported on the licensing aspect of the provider for crisis services, adding that she already has interested citizens who would like to be part of a mental health advisory board or committee if one is appointed.

Commissioner Sauter stated this is an opportunity to facilitate the services necessary, noting there is a need for a short-term solution and what we are going to do involve the appropriate stakeholders.

Commissioner Christopher noted the need for determining a realistic expectation for services to be provided. Chairman Anderson stated the hospitals are stepping into the mental health role and the County needs to find resources to increase the number of available Designated Crisis Responders.

The Board discussed what the overall result should be for the development of a mental health crisis program. Discussion followed regarding the current contract with Comprehensive Healthcare, followed by Director Quinn advising of the short and long-term goals.

Chairman Anderson advised the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge will not be closed this weekend but has been rescheduled for the end of June.

New Business: Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King in the Chambers, IT Manager Jeff Roe various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Director Van Cleave reported on the current copier leases and the cost for contract renewals, noting there will be a slight increase with the upgraded contracts throughout the departments, noting there is an older shared color copier lease that will be terminated and there will be savings, followed by advising the departments are currently saving money by consolidating the long-distance phone calls so the budget impact will be neutral. The Board was in support.

A discussion was held regarding whether it would be beneficial to contract with Solid Waste Consultant Wendy Mifflin to review the structure and job duties of the Solid Waste Department and make recommendations.

Commissioner Christopher advised the contractor would review and develop updated job descriptions for the department, noting the cost at this point is unknown and she would like to do a presentation to the Board during a workshop.

Chairman Anderson stated that he would like to hear a presentation, noting if funds are to be invested he would like to see them invested in contract renegotiation with Republic Services. Commissioner Sauter stated that he is interested in hearing a presentation and he would like to know the scope of work, and Ms. Mifflin's relationship will be with Republic Services. The Board was in support of hearing a presentation from Ms. Mifflin during an upcoming workshop.

Director Van Cleave reported on the upcoming County Property Liability Insurance change.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 11:56 AM.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, June 07, 2022, at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** as presented.

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** to approve meeting minutes for May 03, 2022, May 10, 2022, and May 17, 2022, as presented.

Citizen Comment: Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual

Pat Arnold commented on the Sheriff's update from the morning workshop, noting that she attended the County fair and Posse members were walking around with handcuffs and handguns. Ms. Arnold stated there is a difference between community watch and the posse members in her opinion and that there was a one-sided defense presented this morning.

Lisa Evans stated she appreciates the citizen comment time, followed by an update on the White Salmon/Hood River Bridge repairs stating they will be delayed due to weather. Ms. Evans stated her appreciation and support for the Sheriff Posse, stating they have saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars and are well trained.

Pat Arnold inquired if the County is helping fund the White Salmon Pool. Commissioner Christopher responded by stating the County provided \$50,000 in funding assistance to the District for cash flow and initial operating expenses in 2019.

Commissioner Christopher stated he would like to rebuild and restart the community development block grant fund, and distribute said funds equally between commissioner districts. Stating that he would like to see the commissioners appropriate the funds for their district.

Chairman Anderson responded to Ms. Arnold stating the Metropolitan Pool District didn't receive some of the grants they applied for and the cost of construction is increasingly expensive, noting that the County has provided funding assistance and the County supports the project.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with ten (10) items.

- 1) ***Letter and Resolution No. 05822** in the matter of reappointing Bob Moco to the Klickitat County Board of Equalization. The appointment shall be for an additional three (3) year term, expiring July 1, 2025.
- 2) ***Joint Plan of Responsibility Agreement (C10622)** between the Washington State Department of Health and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of providing guidance on the joint responsibilities of the regulation of water recreation facilities.
- 3) ***Contract (C10722)** Amendment No 1 to the Volunteer Connection Program between the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington and Klickitat County (Senior Services Department) for the purpose of allowing the purchase of new software and the transportation of clients.
- 4) ***Contract (C10822)** between Klickitat County (Senior Services Department) and the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington for the purpose of providing additional funding of \$5,132 to expand services for home-delivered meals for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.
- 5) ***Resolution No. 05922** in the matter of adjusting wages for the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney III, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney II, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney I.
- 6) ***Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Facilities Maintenance Technician position at Union Grade 40, Steps 1-3, within the Public Works Department.
- 7) ***Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Clerical Administrative Assistant I position at Grade 34, Steps 1-3, within the Senior Services Department.
- 8) ***Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Transportation Coordinator position at Grade 35, Step 1, within the Senior Services Department.
- 9) ***Resolution No. 06022** in the matter of setting equipment rental rates for the Equipment Rental and Revolving Fund #504.
- 10) ***Contract (C10922)** Agreement Amendment between the State of Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families and Klickitat County (Juvenile Department) for the purpose of increasing funding by \$3,000.

Payment Approvals:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 1 to All Seasons Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. for the Pioneer Center HVAC Replacement Project in the amount of \$23,600.42, which excludes \$1,151.24 in retainage and includes \$1,726.86 in sales tax.

***Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#314298 - 314365) \$123,409.03 for the date ending June 07, 2022. There were no payroll warrants requiring approval.

The Board discussed regarding participating in the State opioid lawsuit settlement and if it would be beneficial. The Board agreed to seek an opinion from the Prosecutor.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington meeting he attended last week, noting there are funds available for additional programs, but he is advocating for funds to be spent on current programs that are underfunded. Commissioner Sauter indicated that he has a tax report from the Treasurer that will be provided to a public records requester regarding taxes paid by wind farms.

Commissioner Christopher reported he attended a community litter clean up event in Goldendale.

New Business:

Attendance: Natural Resource/Economic Development Director Dave McClure, Charter Communications Senior Manager Stafford Strong (via Zoom) and various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Charter Communications Senior Manager, Mr. Strong reported on grants available for installation of Broadband in rural counties and reviewed the areas within Klickitat County that Charter Communications would propose to install fiber optic cable. Mr. Strong stated that an application would need to be submitted by the County.

The Board discussed the benefit of bringing additional internet options to underserved rural areas and indicated that they would be in support of moving forward after requesting a Prosecuting Attorney's opinion.

Solid Waste Programs Coordinator Department Update:

Attendance: Solid Waste Programs Coordinator Michelle Mulrony in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Solid Waste Programs Coordinator Mulrony reported on community cleanup events, which included Bingen and White Salmon, High Prairie and Goldendale. Ms. Mulrony provided an update on the County's Cover Your Load Campaign.

Programs Coordinator Mulrony reported she attended the Goldendale High School Ag Day, advising she did a worm decomposing example. Ms. Mulrony advised she is working on paint collection at the landfills.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): to recess the meeting until 2:30 PM.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Discussion regarding the challenges of providing public defender services with a state-wide lack of qualified attorneys and case types with new laws requiring the appointment of counsel.

Attendance: Superior Court Judge Randy Krog, Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson, East District Court Judges Rick Hansen, West District Court Judge Jeff Baker (via Zoom), Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell advised that for several years the County has faced major challenges in finding qualified Attorneys to provide Indigent Defense services as outlined in State statute.

Superior Court Judge Randall Krog elaborated further on the issue by outlining State requirements, types of cases and new recent legislation that places more of the financial burden on counties.

Discussion followed concerning the number of qualified attorneys in the regional area compared to prior years. The current public defender services contract was also discussed and the number of hours worked was compared to the contract pay.

Judge Krog stated the Guardian Ad Litem cases are the most difficult to find attorneys for, noting if that were to be included in the contract it would relieve the Superior Court Administrator from spending an exorbitant number of hours trying to find attorneys. Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson reported on the Indigent Attorney hours and caseloads per RCW, which was followed by a discussion about the current attorney's caseload in Superior and District Courts.

Elected Official Report/Update – Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel

Attendance: Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel and West District Court Judge Jeff Baker (via zoom). There were also various elected officials, county employees, and members of the public in attendance via zoom.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised that the hourly rate paid for public defender services in the District Courts has not increased in ten years and he suggested consideration to increase the hourly rate to \$100 per hour. Judge Baker concurred.

Prosecutor Quesnel thanked the Board for signing the resolution on the Consent Agenda today to increase the salaries in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.


Prosecutor Quesnel reported on impacts to the County caused by the Blake Decision and he provided an overview of current arrest standards which have caused a large decline in the number of cases being tried as felonies. Mr. Quesnel provided a brief update on upcoming trials and convictions.

The Board had a discussion concerning unfunded mandates. Prosecutor Quesnel encouraged the Commissioners to take this matter to the Washington State Association of Counties for help in lobbying State legislators.

At 3:40 PM Chairman Anderson announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation. Chairman Anderson noted that the session would last for five (5) minutes. At 3:45 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 3:50 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 3:55 PM. No action was taken.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM. * Reference Document on File. Please Note: A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available online, 6.07.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.


Approved: Jacob Anderson
Chairman of the Board



7-12-2022
Date